

counsel, indicating that Applicants failed "to pay the required issue fee within the statutory period of three months from the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance."

When an office action requiring a response, including a Notice of Allowance, is received from the Patent Office, the due date for responding to the office action is entered into our computerized docketing system. This information is entered using the Attorney Docket Number identified on the office action. The office action is subsequently routed and physically placed into the corresponding application file.

Enclosed is a copy of the docket record corresponding to the above referenced application. If the allegedly mailed Notice of Allowance was received, the docket record would indicate a due date for formal drawings and issue fee, the appropriate response to a Notice of Allowance. The enclosed docket record copy does not show a formal drawings and issue fee due date, thus indicating that the Notice of Allowance was not received from the Patent Office. Applicants' representative has searched the respective file and can find no indication of the allegedly mailed Notice of Allowance therein.

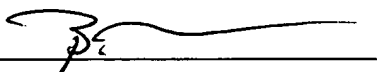
Not knowing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicants did not respond thereto. This statement is signed by Applicants' representative, B. Noël Kivlin, and our firm's docket paralegal, Sonie Nasabee.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made that the knowledge that willful false statements in the like so may are punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which the verified statement is directed to.


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Respectfully submitted,


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